

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Original): A process for preparing oligomeric aliphatic diols comprising:
oligomerizing an aliphatic diol in the presence of an acid catalyst and an entraining agent, wherein the water formed is distilled off azeotropically,
adding an aqueous base to the reaction mixture after reaching the desired degree of oligomerization and hydrolyzing any esters formed during oligomerization,
adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture of 4.0 to 8.0 by adding non- oxidizing inorganic acids or the salts thereof, and,
isolating, dewatering and filtering the organic phase after phase separation of the reaction mixture.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A process for preparing polycarbonatediols comprising reacting an oligomeric aliphatic diol prepared according to Claim 4 with a sub-stoichiometric amount of a carbonate donor in the presence of a catalyst.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to Claim 3, wherein the catalyst comprises a basic magnesium salt.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to Claim 3 wherein the carbonate donor comprises diphenyl carbonate.

Claim 6 (Original): A process for preparing NCO-terminated prepolymers comprising reacting sub-stoichiometric amounts of the polycarbonatediol made according to Claim 4 with a polyisocyanate.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to Claim 6, wherein the polyisocyanate comprises diphenylmethane diisocyanate.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Original): In a process of preparing polyurethane, the improvement comprising incorporating at least one oligomeric aliphatic diol made according to Claim 2.

Claim 10 (Original): In a process of preparing polyurethane, the improvement comprising incorporating at least one NCO-terminated prepolymer made according to Claim 6.

Claim 11 (New): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the diol is chosen from 1,6-hexanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-pentanediol, 1,7-heptanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,9-nonanediol and 1,10-decanediol.

Claim 12 (New): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the acid catalyst is chosen from sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen bromide, hydrogen iodide and aqueous solutions thereof, butanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, benzenedisulfonic acid and naphthalenedisulfonic acid .

Claim 13 (New): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the entraining agent is chosen from toluene, xylene, gas oil fractions, cyclohexane and chlorobenzene.

Claim 14 (New): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the aqueous base is chosen from alkali metal hydroxides.